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John S. Friend.

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JOHN S. FRIEND.

APRIL 24, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. CURTIS, of Kansas, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 2596.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2596) for the relief of John S. Friend, having had the same under consideration, make the following report:

The evidence in this case and the records of the Department show that John S. Friend in the year 1868 resided in Llano County, Tex., about 15 miles south of the town of Llano; that on the 5th day of February of that year he was engaged in the business of a farmer and stock raiser on the Dancer Ranch, and his family, consisting of wife and two children, resided with him.

On said day he was absent from home, when about 15 Comanche Indians made a raid on his ranch and scalped his wife, Matilda Friend. They also cut her three times across the back of her left hand, severing the leaders of the same; stabbed her twice in the left breast; shot her with arrows in the left side and left her for dead. They took his son, Temple Friend, who was 8 years of age, a captive, and carried him off with them. This boy was held captive for several years before he was recovered by Mr. Friend.

In 1874 Mr. Friend filed a claim for damages in the sum of \$6,500 on account of the above acts, and in 1875 the Department made a report on the claim recommending it to the favorable consideration of Congress.

Two bills have been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs recommending the payment of the above sum, one during the Forty-fourth Congress and the other in the Forty-fifth Congress.

Your committee is satisfied that the damage was done by the Comanche Indians; that the amount asked for in the bill, \$6,500, is very reasonable, and that John Friend is entitled to the damages.

Your committee further find that under the treaty of 1864 the Comanche Indians agreed to refrain from the commission of any depredations or injuries to the personal property of any person sustaining friendly relations with the Government of the United States.

Your committee therefore recommend the following amendment, to wit: After the word "Treasury," in line 6, add the following, "now to the credit of the Comanche tribe of Indians," and that the bill do pass as amended.